

### REMARKS

Claims 1 to 4, 25 to 45, and 47 to 54 are pending in this application. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 43 to remove extraneous text and to add the dilution chamber of dependent claim 46 that has been found to be allowable. Thus, these amendments add no new matter. Applicant has also cancelled claim 46 and claims 5 to 24 were previously cancelled. Claims 3, 4, 25 to 37, 39 to 42, 46 to 50, and 52 are allowable for reasons of record.

#### Claim Interpretation

Applicant expresses no comment on the validity or invalidity of the Examiner's interpretation of claims 1 and 43, but notes that this interpretation is moot in view of the removal of the language cited by the Examiner.

#### 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

Claims 1-2, 38, 43-45, 51, and 53-54 have been rejected as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicant notes that this rejection is moot in view of the present amendment removing the language "to prevent fluid flow across the chamber and carrier interface" cited by the Examiner as the basis for this rejection.

Applicant does not, however, concede that this claim language contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Applicant submits that the cited language is indeed supported in the application, but has removed this language from the claims as unnecessary for patentability.

#### 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1-2, 38, 43-45, 51, and 53-54 have been rejected as allegedly being unclear for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant submits that this rejection is moot in view of the amendment removing the cited language.

Allowable Claims

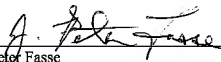
Applicant appreciates the Examiner's confirmation that claims 3, 4, 25 to 37, 39 to 42, 46 to 50, and 52 are allowable. Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 43 to include the dilution chamber element of claim 46, which has been allowed for reasons of record. Thus, both claims 1 and 43 should now be in condition for allowance. In addition, claims 2, 38, 44, 45, 51, 53, and 54, which depend from either claim 1 or claim 43, are now also in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons that claims 1 and 43 are allowable.

CONCLUSION

The petition fee in the amount of \$1020 is being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System (EFS) by way of Deposit Account authorization. Please apply all charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050, referencing Attorney Docket No. 14255-036001.

Respectfully submitted,

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